

## SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR APRIL 1947

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Gulfport, Miss., northern and eastern sections. Childress and northeastern Hall County, Tex. Gettysburg, Pa.	April 1947						
	1	5-6 p. m.			\$10,000	High wind and rain.	Trees uprooted; roofs blown off; signs down; highways damaged.
	2	7:48 p. m.	12		125,000	Hail.	Chief damage to buildings and automobiles; small crop loss.
	2	10:15-10:30 p. m.	11			Thunderstorm.	Several buildings burned; utility lines out of service. Balls of red fire seen in air and on ground, some appearing to roll through walls of a house. A 4-strand wire fence completely burned away. Trees shattered to splinters and rocks split and thrown in air. Path 1 mile long; damage not estimated.
	4	2:30-5:30 p. m.			10,000	2 hailstorms.	In Clitmax, hailstones were as large as turkey eggs and lemons. Many windows broken and roofs damaged. Path 15 miles long.
Clitmax to Neal, Kans.	4	2:30-5:30 p. m.			10,000	2 hailstorms.	In Clitmax, hailstones were as large as turkey eggs and lemons. Many windows broken and roofs damaged. Path 15 miles long.
Erick, Okla., vicinity of.	4	4 p. m.	11		2,500	Wind and hail.	Damage to roofs and windows; path 10 miles long.
Covington, Okla.	4	4:30 p. m.	11		5,000	Hail.	Damage principally to roofs and windows.
Noble County, Okla., north-central portion.	4	5:30 p. m.	16		2,500	Hail and wind.	1 person injured; damage to homes and oil derricks.
Pleasant View and Carnegie, Okla., vicinities of.	4	do.		0	1,000	Tornado and hail.	Storm covered small area; path narrow.
Haskell, Tex.	4	do.		0	2,000	Tornado.	Buildings damaged; no crop loss.
Ramona, Okla., vicinity of.	4	10 p. m.	880		5,000	Heavy rain and wind.	No details available.
Carnegie to Ft. Cobb, Okla.	4			0	5,000	Tornado.	Path 15 miles long, from 2 miles south of Carnegie to 4 miles north of Ft. Cobb; no details available.
Wister, Okla., south of.	5	2 a. m.	100	4	50,750	do.	Storm moved northeastward into the vicinity of Poteau, Ark., where 3 persons were injured.
Tennessee	5	Noon				Wind.	Roofs damaged; plate glass windows broken.
Moline, Ill.	5	3-12 p. m.		2	100,000	do.	Utility lines broken at scattered points, as winds reaching 75 m. p. h. swept across the area for nearly 8 hours Saturday night; service almost fully restored by Monday. Street department expected to be 8-10 days clearing mud and debris in eastern section of city and clearing storm drains, clogged by week's heavy rains. 2 boys drowned when their boat overturned. Winds from west and southwest, 57 m. p. h., broke windows, blew down trees, and damaged planes at Moline Airport, and Cram Field, Davenport, Iowa. Cornice of hotel ripped loose, fell to sidewalk. Woman cut on shoulder by falling glass from hotel.
Cincinnati, Ohio.	5					Thunderstorm.	2 persons injured; several houses unroofed.
Wisconsin, southeastern counties.	5-6	P. m. of 5th-a. m. of 6th.			5,500	Straight-line wind.	Power and transmission lines and poles down; trees blown over; signs down and minor damage to buildings over wide areas; damage not estimated. 3 airplanes wrecked or damaged at Milwaukee; loss, \$5,500. Maximum wind at Milwaukee, 60 m. p. h., from southwest at 8:34 p. m., of the 5th.
Minnesota, northern counties.	5-6					Sleet, snow, and winds.	Number of poles and wires down; some damage to trees; roof of old grain elevator in Duluth damaged. Roads blocked by drifts.
Kaufman, Tex.	9	5 p. m.	13		50,000	Hail.	Young crops cut down.
White Deer, Glazier, and Higgins, Tex.	9	5:42 p. m.		66	1,505,000	Tornado.	Length of path at White Deer, 250 yds.; at Glazier, 600 yds.; at Higgins, 2,640 yds. Along path in Texas, 66 persons killed, 201 injured.
Ellis, Woodward, and Woods Counties, Okla.	9	8-10 p. m.		101	8,022,750	do.	Considered worst tornado that ever occurred in Oklahoma. Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas were in 221-mile path from White Deer, Tex., to St. Leo, Kans. Largest city, Woodward, Okla., suffered major loss of life and property damage. Tornado followed northeasterly path 101 miles in Oklahoma, entering Ellis County about 8 p. m., after demolishing Higgins, Tex. From Ellis County it moved into Woodward County, striking the town of Woodward at 8:43 p. m., destroying much of northwestern half of city. Continued through Woodward and Woods counties, leaving State near Hardtner, Kans., about 10:00 p. m. Storm moved forward about 42 m. p. h. Width of storm, 1.5 miles at Higgins; 1.8 miles at Woodward; 1 mile in Woods County.
Meade and Fowler, Kans., vicinities of.	9	8:15-9:15 p. m.	440	0	225,000	do.	Red Cross estimates are as follows: Woodward County: 95 killed; 723 injured; 430 homes destroyed, 650 damaged; 925 other buildings destroyed, 775 damaged. Woods County: 0 killed; 17 injured; 25 homes destroyed, 20 damaged; 110 other buildings destroyed, 90 damaged. Ellis County: 6 killed; 42 injured; 52 homes destroyed, 133 damaged; 223 other buildings destroyed, 107 damaged.
Barber and Kingman Counties, Kans.	9	10-10:30 p. m.	11	0	200,000	do.	Property losses, estimated by county agents: Town of Woodward and Woodward County, \$6,608,750; Ellis County, \$1,264,000; Woods County, \$150,000.
Quinlan, Okla.	9	11 p. m.		0	3,000	do.	No injuries reported. Farm property damaged; path 35 miles long, ending 5 miles south, 12 miles east of Dodge City.
Harvey, McPherson, and Marion Counties, Kans., western portions.	10	About 1 a. m.			500,000	Violent winds.	Continuation of path of tornado that struck Woodward, Okla. Documents from Oklahoma were dropped along storm path in Kansas. Tornado crossed Kansas line at 10 p. m., west of Hardtner, passing through western edge; it passed through Gerlane and northwest edge of Nashville. It seemed to dissipate after doing some damage in St. Leo, 6 miles north of Nashville, at about 11 p. m. Chief damage to farm buildings, livestock, and wire lines. In Gerlane no building escaped without damage. Tornado occurred in connection with a general windstorm in the two counties. Path 40 miles long.
Marion and Chase Counties, Kans.	10	1 a. m.	890	0	50,000	Tornado.	Number of buildings destroyed; some cattle killed.
Harveyville to Auburn, Kans., and vicinities.	10	2:30 a. m.	220	0	25,000	do.	Windstorms approaching tornadic violence covered most of Harvey and Marion Counties and eastern portion of McPherson County, near Canton. Great number of commercial buildings damaged in Newton.
Antelope to Burdick, Kans., vicinities of.	10	1:30-2 p. m.		0		do.	Path extended from near northern line of Harvey County, passing a short distance north of Peabody and Florence, and ended in Chase County; path 35 miles long.
Gollad, Tex.	10	8:42 p. m.	16		20,000	Hail.	Path began 4 1/4 miles southwest of Harveyville, passing within 600 feet of town. Damage chiefly to barns, sheds, and to cattle killed when a barn collapsed. Last damage occurred about 2 miles east of Auburn.
							Some damage in Burdick; some farm property damage; much damage to utilities. 2 persons injured; path 20 miles long. Amount of damage not estimated.
							Chief damage to buildings and automobiles; small loss in livestock, poultry, and crops.

See footnote at end of table.

## SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR APRIL 1947—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Laurel Grove, Va., vicinity of.	April 11 1947	6:50-6:58 p. m.	100	0	10,000	Tornadoic winds.	Roof torn from one dwelling and windows broken in all but one room; back portion of house twisted away from main portion; concrete foundation cracked; large tree uprooted, and outbuildings completely demolished. A frail structure only a few hundred yards away undamaged. Funnel cloud not observed.
Haskell County, Kans.	11		14		1,500	Heavy hail.	Storm extended diagonally across county through Satanta. Chief damage to windows and roofs. Hailstones up to size of eggs, but too early in season for much crop damage.
Sumner County, Ga., extreme northeast.	14	About 9:30 a. m.	50-300	0	60,000	Tornado.	Main force of storm in and around Andersonville National Cemetery. Storm came from southwest, lifting soon after reaching Andersonville. Minor to severe damage to about 25 houses. Church demolished and heavy losses to buildings of chemical company. Numerous trees uprooted or blown down; wires down. Crop loss negligible to moderate.
Houston County, Ga., central portion.	14	10:50 a. m.	100	0	40,000	do.	Possibly same storm that struck Andersonville. Storm came from southwest and struck small area 2 miles south of Perry. Moderate to heavy damage to 8 residences, 5 barns, and numerous small buildings.
Powell Park, Colo.	16	P. m.			1,000	Thunderstorm.	7 cattle killed by lightning.
Madisonville, La.	20	8:15 p. m.	300	0	1,700	Tornado.	2 homes damaged; barn destroyed; fruit and pecan trees uprooted or tops broken off; commercially grown vegetables and flowers destroyed. Path about 1,000 yards long, with movement of the storm from south to north. Loss in crops, \$850; in livestock, \$50; damage to buildings, \$800.
Pilger, Nebr., and vicinity.	23					Wind and heavy hail.	Several sheds blown down or unroofed. Insignificant hail damage, as no crops had been planted.
Madera County, Calif., southwestern portions.	26	5:15-6:15 p. m., P. S. T.			25,000-50,000	Hail and rain.	Hail, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch in size, knocked leaves off and broke canes on grapevines. Leaves and fruit from trees in orchards, and leaves of alfalfa plants and young cotton and melon plants, taken off; grain shattered. No damage to livestock and buildings.
Wray, Colo., and vicinity.	27	6 p. m.			100,500	Torrential rain, hail, and flood.	One of worst storms in many years. 6.60 inches of rain recorded. Many persons forced to leave home, and flee from high water which poured off surrounding hills and ran through town. 6-8 inches of hail, as measured on the level, was carried by flood waters and built into banks 5-6 feet deep against obstructions. Holes pounded in roofs; cellars flooded a few inches up to 8 or more feet. Some homes flooded with several feet of water, hail, and debris. Almost no home in Wray escaped entirely from damage. Automobiles parked at curbs were floated up a block, carried over curbs, and slammed against trees. Light service was not affected. Occurred 1 mile west of Jewell; no details.
Jewell, Kans.	28	Midnight-1 a. m.	13		1,000	Heavy hail.	
Thomas and Sheridan Counties, Kans.	28	5:15-5:45 p. m.	880	0	40,000	Tornado and heavy hail.	Tornado formed mile east of southeastern portion of Colby, followed U. S. Highway 24 for about 3 miles, and moved toward northeast, ending about a mile inside Sheridan County. All buildings in path totally or partially destroyed; much damage to telephone lines. 4 persons injured. Path about 18 miles long.
Colby, Kans., 2 miles east.	28	5:15-6 p. m.	12	0		Tornado, wind, and hail.	Beginning near eastern city limits, tornado followed U. S. Highway 24, doing considerable damage to property on either side of road. Damage to new radio station site, Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company booster plant, and to a farmhouse. Telephone and electric lines east of Colby flattened in many places. Crop loss not estimated, but seemed considerable in some fields. Some persons slightly injured.
Stapleton, Nebr., vicinity of.	28			0		Thunderstorm, electrical, small tornado, and hail.	Church, struck by lightning, burned. Small tornado and hail in nearby communities, but no report of damage.
Cheyenne to Laramie, Wyo.	28					Heavy snow.	Highway 30, between Cheyenne and Laramie, blocked by snow. Motorists stranded on Sherman Hill.
Worth, Mo.	29			23		Tornado.	Worth was main target in 2 tornadoic paths: 13 of town's 223 residents killed; 45 injured. 1 tunnel destroyed. Worth and ripped northeastward into Iowa. The other struck near Rogers, Ark., killing 9 persons, then bounced northeastward toward Rolla, Mo., where one man was killed. Barn and schoolhouse destroyed.
Wagner, Okla., northwest of.	29	8 p. m.	880	0	8,000	Tornado and hail.	
Southeastern Kaufman County to eastern Van Zandt, Tex.	29	9:10 p. m.	200	0	20,000	Tornado.	Tornado struck Mabanks, Tex., and moved eastward to the Clower community, injuring 5 persons, and destroying 6 houses and several barns along path.
Washington and Ottawa Counties, Okla.	29-30	Near midnight.			5,000	Wind.	1 person injured; no details.
Dillon, S. C., 3 miles east.	30	4:30 p. m.	900	0	5,000	Tornado.	Funnel cloud observed by many. Several buildings damaged, barns destroyed.
Fairmont, N. C.	30	4:30-4:40 p. m.	150	1	250,000	do.	Storm first noticed near Dillon, S. C., near Little Pee Dee River; moved east-northeastward to heavily settled rural area south and east of Fairmont. 61 buildings, including 22 dwellings, badly damaged, $\frac{1}{4}$ completely demolished. Loss in growing corn, cotton, and tobacco, estimated at \$5,000; loss in stored crops and livestock, \$1,500. Property damage, \$250,000. Minor damage in vicinity of Dillon, S. C.; and Clarkton, N. C., where sharp wind squall was reported same afternoon, suffered minor damage.
Laurel, Miss., west and south of.	30	5:15 p. m.	110		13,600	High wind and hail.	Crop loss, \$7,000; property damage, \$6,500; tree damage, \$100. Storm moved from west to east for 11 miles.
Emmitsburg, Md.	30	After 6 p. m.				Thunderstorm, heavy rain, and wind.	3 buildings unroofed; 1 roof fell on 2 automobiles, wrecking them.
Rockwall, Tex.	30	6:40 p. m.	100	0	10,800	Tornado.	10 persons injured; 4 homes destroyed; crop damage negligible.
Lake Herington, Kans.	30	7:30 p. m.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		2,000	Heavy hail.	Path 3 miles long.
Baltimore, Md.	30	7:42 p. m.				Thunderstorm, heavy rain.	Flooding of streets, cellars, and low portions of highway. Fire aboard small trolley, caused by short circuit. 3.64 inches fall of rain recorded in 7 hours.
Columbia, S. C.	30	8:15 p. m.				Thunderstorm.	Comparatively high, gusty winds below down trees, broke branches damaged power lines.
Louisville, Miss.	30	9:30-11:30 p. m.			1,200	High wind and hail.	Damage mostly from high winds; hail damage slight.

<sup>1</sup> Miles instead of yards.